

**Claim Amendments**

1. (Currently amended) A valve actuation linkage mechanism for use in an internal combustion engine comprising:
  - a rocker arm having a pivot rod cup;
  - a valve bridge having a pivot rod chamber; and
  - a pivot rod comprising a pivot rod head, wherein at least a part of the pivot rod head pivots within the pivot rod cup while retained by a pivot rod retainer, and comprising a pivot rod body, wherein at least a part of the pivot rod body pivots in the pivot rod chamber.
2. (Currently amended) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 1, [further comprising a] wherein the pivot rod retainer retains the pivot rod to the valve bridge.
3. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 2, wherein the pivot rod retainer comprises:
  - a pivot rod orifice having at least one pivot rod prong; and
  - at least one securing orifice.
4. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 2, wherein the valve bridge further comprises:
  - a middle valve bridge section having the pivot rod chamber and at least one adjacent pivot rod retainer securing bore; and
  - a bottom valve bridge section.
5. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the pivot rod chamber further comprises a lubricant dimple.

6. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 2, wherein the pivot rod comprises:

- a pivot rod head;
- a pivot rod neck;
- a pivot rod body; and
- a pivot rod bottom.

7. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the pivot rod and pivot rod chamber cooperate to form a contact line.

8. (Previously presented) A valve actuation linkage mechanism for use in an internal combustion engine comprising:

- a rocker arm having a pivot rod cup;
- a pivot rod;
- a pivot rod retainer;
- a valve bridge having a pivot rod chamber;
- a middle valve bridge section having the pivot rod chamber and at least one adjacent pivot rod retainer securing bore; and
- a bottom valve bridge section.

9. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the pivot rod retainer comprises:

- a pivot rod orifice having at least one pivot rod prong; and
- at least one securing orifice.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the pivot rod comprises:

- a pivot rod head;
- a pivot rod neck;
- a pivot rod body; and
- a pivot rod bottom.

12. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the pivot rod chamber further comprises a lubricant dimple.

13. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the pivot rod and pivot rod chamber cooperate to form a contact line.

14. (Currently amended) A valve actuation linkage mechanism for use in an internal combustion engine comprising:

- a pivot rod retainer;
- a valve bridge having a pivot rod chamber; and
- a pivot rod comprising a pivot rod head, wherein at least a part of the pivot rod head is pivotable within a pivot rod cup of a rocker arm while retained by the pivot rod retainer, and comprising a pivot rod body, wherein at least a part of the pivot rod body pivots in the pivot rod chamber.

15. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 14, wherein the pivot rod retainer comprises:

- a pivot rod orifice having at least one pivot rod prong; and
- at least one securing orifice.

16. (Currently amended) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 14, wherein the valve bridge further comprises:

a middle valve bridge section having the pivot rod chamber and at least one adjacent pivot rod retainer securing bore; and  
a bottom valve bridge section.

17. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 14, wherein the pivot rod chamber further comprises a lubricant dimple.

18. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 14, wherein the pivot rod comprises:

a pivot rod head;  
a pivot rod neck;  
a pivot rod body; and  
a pivot rod bottom.

19. (Original) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 14, wherein the pivot rod and pivot rod chamber cooperate to form a contact line.

20. (New) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 14, wherein the pivot rod retainer retains the pivot rod to the valve bridge.

21. (New) The valve actuation linkage mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the pivot rod retainer retains the pivot rod to the valve bridge.